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The studies continually being made

ease have materially lessened the per

iod of detention at quarantine sta-

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THE HASKIN LETTER TYPHUS AND QUARANTINE

By Frederic J. Haskin.

Early in March confidential reports | oculation is made from cultures tak had been received at the bureau of en from patients having "Brill's dis public health service in Washington ease," a mild form of typhus discov oncerning the prevalence of typhus ered by Dr. Brill in New York a num ever and cholera in Serbia and of ber of years ago. typhus fever in Greece. This served Public sentiment has changed comwarning that these diseases might pletely as regards its attitude to the be found among immigrants arriving quarantine service. Formerly, ship rom these countries, and gave the owners, captains, ship surgeons and quarantine officers opportunity to pre- many passengers looked upon it as pare for this contingency. When the Greek steamer, Christoforos, arrived instances attempted to conceal distances on board the work at typhus case on board there was no panic, but ports they entered. Education has all was in readiness to take prompt taught the nation that any epidemic action for the protection of the public health, with the shortest possible as an avoidable risk of life and waste

detention of the vessel. Twenty-five years ago, a great ty- has been organized to prevent this phus epidemic ravaged New York. It risk and waste so far as possible. Its ost many lives and filled the hospit- quarantine service is one of als to overflowing. Among the dead strongest branches, because of were a number of doctors who con- number of diseases likely to be tracted the disease from their pat- brought in by ships from foreign ients. A tablet now stands in Belle- ports, many of which have no health vue hospital, erected to the memory restrictions. of these doctors, whose services during the epidemic of 1899 cost them this country now includes sixty-four

country from Europe by passengers sides large stations and sub-stations who evaded the quarantine regulations of that period. As the epidemic pine islands. It is under the direction of that period. grew more serious, these regulations tion of Dr. Leland E Cofer, assistant became more rigorous, so that at least one large vessel carrying first class and at each station, properly qualified passengers was held a quarantine medical officers and their assistants prisoner outside of the port of New

ne Christoforos was detained only welve days and then allowed to proceed upon her course with a proper health certificate. The difference between the present procedure in pro-tecting the health of the American classes of passengers, who would have public from typhus, and that in vogue to be detained if a case of infectious twenty-five years ago is due to better or contagious disease were found up-understanding of the disease and the better equipment of the quarantine to leave the vessel in order that it

Accurate knowledge regarding the tion of the health officers before it Accurate knowledge regarding the could ge permitted to enter port Un-ause of typhus fever was secured in der these conditions passengers are 1910 by studies conducted by Dr. John P. Anderson, now director of the hyservice, and Dr. J. A. Goldberger, both have been taken to insure their comof whom were at that time stationed fort, and to make their detention as in Mexico. They were able to confirm in Mexico. They were able to confirm lute safety of the public. what other scientists had suspected A disinfecting wharf at each quarwhat other scientists had suspended and suspended regarding typhus, that it was caused entirely by the bite of the insect pedentirely by the bite of the bite of the bite between the bite between the bite between the bite b the body louse. The insect carries the infection by going from a person all through shower bath alleys, and supsuffering with the fever to a healthy person who, when bitten, re-ceives the infection in his blood. It s now practically certain that all ty-the contagious diseases brought into Typhus is one of the oldest disphus infection starts in this way.

eases of the world. It is sometimes passengers, the utmost care is used known as fail fever or ship fever, and breaks out only when human beings are herded closely together; although as to the nature of communicable disof course, the insect breeding, it may be carried into other conditions. The he carried into other conditions some load of detention at a graph of the nature to those living in border towns, alarm to those living in border towns, alarm to those living in border towns, is identical with the other, although of the disease, and also at the disease. the danger of an epidemic being brought over the border is slight and easily overcome in the light of prespins small pox and plague are the

Since the disease centers around the insect, the best preventive meas-Certificate of Deposit with this Rank A Delay Cent Unlike the plague brackless preventive measures that the plague brackless the plague brackless and the destruction of the rats upon an infected ship is one of the most important of the quarantine matter, if attempted in the right way. Unlike the plague breeding nea, the pedicularis has small power of locomotion. When the body has been thoroughly cleaned, the ciothing, bedding and surroundings properly have been made for the distinction of the disti disinfected, the danger of the spread of the disease is practically conquered. After a patient suffering from typhus has been removed to the quarantine station, the vessel and its cargo are fumigated by the best modern meritages. All those who have been methods. All those who have been utmost vigilance should be exercised exposed to contagion are removed and to protect the health of this nation. kept under observation for five days. The advantages to be secured from If disease symptoms do not develop federal, rather than local, control are within three days from the infectious becoming well understood. The posbite, they are not likely to occur. Typhus is essentially a disease of the country is a national, rather than

the temperate or colder climates. It the temperate or colder climates. It a local matter. When the entire quardoes not prevail in the tropics, and is apt to lessen at the approach of summer. This fact constitutes the chief a unity of regulations and protection and protection of the war surgeons of Europe. hope of the war surgeons of Europe, is secured whih would be impossible who, with the Red Cross nurses, are valiantly struggling with it in the valiantly struggling with it in the trenches and crowded camps and hos- departments, especially the departpitals. It is claimed that a number ment of state, the health service buof doctors and at least fifty nurses reau secures a thorough knowledge have died from it within the last two of the health conditions in foreign months. The Mexican typhus attacks only the men who are camping in the mountains at high altitudes. As precatitions, as in the Greek vessel soon as they go down where it is hot referred to. As this service is under the mountains at high altitudes. As and dry the disease almost disappears.

For this reason the probability of typolitical changes, which often prove For this reason the probability of trephus being brought into this country destructive to good quarantine admin-

Science has not discovered any but three exceptions, the quarantine means of checking the progress of of each of the large American cities typhus when it has once been intro- is now under duced into the blood by the bite of health service. the insect. The disease is bound to run its course with more or less se verity according to existing condi-It develops rapidly. A person may go to bed in apparent health and rise the next morning with an aching head, and other symptoms. Dr. P. C. Showalter has moved his which will cause a return to bed offices from the Smith building, cor-

from Mexico is small.

Inoculation is now being tried, and West Main street.-Adversement. has been advised for persons who are likely to be exposed to conditions producing typhus, as are the nurses and doctors in the war zone. Plotz, of Mt. Sinai hospital, New York, is now engaged in the cultivation of an organism from typhus and the use of this organism in developing a serum or vaccine, which may serve as a substitute for inoculation. The in-

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